

Oxford Methodist Circuit

Purpose¹

The Oxford Circuit's purpose is to encourage and resource churches to be confident, creative, courageous and committed as they proclaim the love of God in worship, witness and service.

Priorities for 2019-2021

Resourcing

We will support local churches to take forward the hopes and plans identified in the 'Planning for Fruitfulness' process by:

- Appropriately deploying and supporting the ordained ministers stationed in the Circuit to provide leadership and pastoral care, noting the need to review and reorganise stations ahead of the departures of current ministers.
- Recruiting and developing lay staff with complementary skills for specific roles or projects.
- Providing funding for projects and initiatives that further the mission of the churches.
- Facilitating the exchange of advice, skills and volunteer time between churches.

Belonging

We will build up a stronger sense of Circuit identity and of sharing in one mission together by:

- Sharing good news and successes, as well as struggles and needs, that we may rejoice together and support one another better.
- Organising events and initiatives that help to bring Methodists in the Circuit together for worship, mission or fellowship.
- Reviewing worship services across the Circuit to ensure a range of times and styles are offered.
- Linking up those engaged in children's and youth ministry for mutual support and learning.

Enabling

We will help people across the Circuit to respond to our calling 'to serve the present age'² by:

- Enabling conversations around important issues in our Church and society – including mandated Connexional conversations about marriage and relationships, the Methodist-Anglican covenant, and ministry in the Methodist Church – helping people to 'disagree well'.
- Encouraging, supporting and training more people to become Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, and providing training for those leading worship by local arrangement.
- Thinking together about how we can respond creatively to changes in our communities, especially new housing developments.

As agreed at Circuit Meeting, 21 March 2019

¹ Methodist Standing Order 500 (1) defines the Nature and Purposes of a Circuit as follows:

The Circuit is the primary unit in which Local Churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help. It is in the Circuit that presbyters, deacons and probationers are stationed and local preachers are trained and admitted and exercise their calling. The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit, including local schools and colleges, and in ecumenical work in the area including, where appropriate, the support of ecumenical Housing Associations.

² From the hymn 'A Charge to Keep I Have', by Charles Wesley.